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EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1951

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P.H. DEPT.
EXMOUTH.

I N D E X.

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EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Templetown Lodge,
Esplanade,
Exmouth.

PH/2109/4.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my sixth Annual Report for the year ending 31st. December 1951, and I am pleased to record that in general the state of the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year. The number of notified cases of infectious diseases remained low, with the exception of Measles, the incidence of which rose to the high figure of 533 cases. In view of the low incidence of that disease during the preceding two years, a large number of cases in 1951 was not unexpected.

I am pleased to report that no cases of Infantile Paralysis occurred in the Exmouth Urban District and that for the fifth consecutive year there has been no case of diptheria. I again stress that only by maintaining the Diptheria immunisation rate at the present level, or higher, can this disease be kept in check.

With the steady increase in fast air travel the dangers of importing Smallpox from foreign countries where the disease is endemic is also steadily increasing and it is only by the constant vigilance on the part of Port Health Authorities and Medical Officers throughout the country that its importation and spread is being controlled. In May seven contacts from an infected ship came to reside in Exmouth and were put under strict surveillance at their home for the requisite quarantine period. With this ever increasing danger of Smallpox before us the need for protection of the public by vaccination, preferably in infancy, is greater today than ever before.

With regard to the vital statistics of the area the number of live births (212) showed an increase of 6 over the previous year, whilst the total of 334 deaths recorded was an increase of 48 over that for 1950.

The average age at death reached the record figure of 73.2 years.

I should again like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all the Members of the staff for their great help and co-operation given to me during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

L. C. Anderson

Medical Officer of Health.

Erratum. Throughout the report for Diptheria read "Diphtheria!"

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health.

L. G. ANDERSON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

MR. E.A.C. LONG, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

MR. D.R. REDGWELL, M. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
(Commenced duties 15th. January 1951.)

Engineer, Surveyor and Water Engineer.

MR. R.J. HUMPHREYS, M.I., Mun.E., M.R.San.I.

Deputy Surveyor.

MR. W.J. WHITSED.

Housing Officer.

MRS. F.A. ELLETT.

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health & Sanitary Inspector.

MISS J.E. MUTTER.

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1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	5,295
Resident Population Mid.Year 1951. (as estimated by the Registrar General)	17,160
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951)	5,436
Rateable value (end of 1951)... ..	185,698
Product of a penny rate (March 1951)	742

2. VITAL STATISTICS.(a) Live Births.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	100	103	203
Illegitimate	4	5	9
Total	104	108	212

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	12.4
Standardised live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	13.1
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population England & Wales ...	15.8

(b) Still births.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	2	4

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live births.....	18.90
Still birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.....	0.23
Still birth rate per 1,000 Civilian population England & Wales.....	0.36

(c) Deaths.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
156	178	334

Corrected death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	19.5
Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	12.6
Death rate per 1,000 civilian population England & Wales	12.5
Deaths from puerperal causes.....	Nil

STATISTICS ON THE AREA

Area (in acres) 5,298
 Resident Population Mid-Year 1951
 (as estimated by the Registrar General) 17,180
 Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) 7,432
 Rateable value (end of 1951) 185,698
 Product of a penny rate (March 1951) 742

VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births

Total	Males	Females	Total
104	100	108	103
103	100	103	103
103	100	103	103

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... 13.4
 Standardized live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident
 population ... 13.1
 Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population
 England & Wales ... 13.8

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Still birth rate per 1,000 total live births ... 13.0
 Still birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... 0.25
 Still birth rate per 1,000 civilian population
 England & Wales ... 0.36

(a) Deaths

Total	Males	Females	Total
124	124	124	124
124	124	124	124
124	124	124	124

Corrected death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 19.5
 Standardized death rate per 1,000 estimated resident
 population 19.5
 Death rate per 1,000 civilian population England & Wales 19.5
 Deaths from principal causes ... 11

(d) Infant Mortality.

(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	2	2	4

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births.....18.9

Infant Mortality per 1,000 births England & Wales.....29.6

3. LIVE BIRTH RATE.

During 1951, 104 male and 108 female (total 212) babies were born. As compared with the previous year the total births showed an increase of 6 i.e., from 206 in 1950 to 212 in 1951.

The Standardised live birth rates during the last 10 years:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Exmouth	12.6	14.8	15.8	15.2	18.6	16.2	14.2	14.4	12.05	12.4
Standardised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.0	13.1
England & Wales	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5

4. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE.

Of the 212 children born during 1951, 9 were illegitimate, i.e., 3 fewer than in the previous year, and the Illegitimate birth rate of 42.6 per 1,000 live births is lower than that for England and Wales 47.0. The Illegitimate birth rates (rates per 1,000 total live births) during the last 10 years were as follows:-

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
81.0	90.0	110.0	109.0	72.2	60.7	54.2	41.2	58.2	42.6

5. STILL BIRTHS.

I am pleased to report that the number of still births which occurred during 1951 were 4 fewer than in the previous year and the still birth rate of 0.23 was considerably less than that for England & Wales as a whole (0.36). The subjoined table shows the still birth rate per 1,000 civilian population for the last 10 years:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Exmouth	0.51	0.59	0.65	0.57	0.31	0.55	0.29	0.24	0.47	0.23
England & Wales	0.54	0.51	0.50	0.46	0.53	0.50	0.42	0.39	0.37	0.36

6. DEATHS.

During 1951, 334 persons normally resident in the urban district died (156 males, 178 females) which represents a corrected death rate of 19.5, but which when allowance for age and sex distribution has been made represents a "standardised death rate" of 12.6. The rate is slightly

higher than that for 1950 and is approximately the same as the death rate of England & Wales as a whole (12.5) The following table shows the corrected and standardised death rates for Exmouth for the last 10 years:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Corrected	24.2	19.5	18.3	18.8	19.8	18.0	15.0	16.8	16.8	19.5
Standardised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11.2	11.2	12.6
England & Wales.	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5

(a) Causes of death.

The following Table shows the causes of death (data supplied by the Registrar General).

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Respiratory	1	-	1
Other Forms	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	2	3
Cancer			
Malignant neoplasm stomach	4	3	7
" " Lung bronchus	6	3	9
" " breast	-	3	3
" " uterus (Womb)	-	5	5
Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	11	15	26
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system (e.g. cerebral haemorrhage)	24	28	52
Coronary disease, angina	22	10	32
Hypertension with heart disease (high blood pressure)	2	4	6
Other heart disease	29	58	87
Other circulatory disease	6	5	11
Influenza	1	3	4
Pneumonia	5	4	9
Bronchitis	11	5	16
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis & Nephrosis	4	-	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	6	-	6
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	19	34
Motor vehicle accidents	1	3	4
All other accidents.	1	3	4
Suicide.	1	1	2
All causes.	156	178	334

The most prevalent cause of death during 1951 was that of heart disease 125 cases (37.5 total deaths). Cancer was the cause in 50 cases (15.0 total deaths) and intra-cranial vascular lesions such as cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis was responsible for 42 deaths (12.6 of total deaths).

Deaths due to Motor Accidents.

Five people died during the year as a result of motor accidents certain details relating to which are recorded below. Two of these accidents occurred outside the Urban District.

1. Female 70 Years - Death from fractured skull as a result of being knocked down by a small commercial van in Yeovil.
2. Female 70 Years - Fractured skull sustained when motor car in which she was a passenger on highway at Kingsteignton was struck by a motor lorry.
3. Female 71 Years - General peritonitis following rupture of the colon due to being struck by a private motor car when reversing.
4. Male 24 Years - Fat embolism following fractures of the right femurs, right tibia and fibula sustained in a motoring accident on the Salterton Road, Exmouth.
5. Male 56 Years - Fractured skull sustained when the motor cycle combination on which he was riding collided with a motor car on the Exeter Road, Exmouth.

Deaths due to other Accidents.

1. Female 80 Years - Fractured skull sustained when she fell at Kings Lynn, Norfolk.
2. Male 66 Years - Fractured skull sustained through falling from roof of shed.
3. Female 85 Years - Following fracture of the femur due to a simple fall.
4. Female 87 Years - Following fracture of the femur due to a simple fall.

Deaths by Suicide.

The two deaths by suicide were as follows:-

1. Male 66 Years - Strangulation by hanging.
2. Female 43 Years - By drowning.

(b) Age at death.

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Males										70
Females										76
Both Sexes	68	70	70	72	72	73	69.8	69.8	71.1	73.2
England (M &										66.49
+ Wales (F										71.22

+ Expectation of life from " Provisional Statistics for England & Wales for 1951".

It may be noted here th at 50 years ago in 1901 the expectation of life for a male child was 48.53 years and a female child 52.38 years.

The following table shows the incidence of deaths at various age groups (from returns supplied by local Registrar of Births & Deaths).

Age Group	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
Under 1 year	2	2	4	1.2
1, and under 2 years	-	-	-	-
2+	-	-	-	-
5 +	-	-	-	-
10 +	1	-	1	0.3
20 +	1	-	1	0.3
30 +	2	1	3	0.9
40 +	4	4	8	2.4
50 +	15	6	21	6.3
60 +	42	22	64	19.2
70 +	52	62	114	34.2
80 +	35	72	107	32.2
90 +	2	8	10	3.0
100 +	-	-	-	
All ages	156	177	333	

7. INFANT MORTALITY.

Four infants, 1 male and 2 female, under the age of 1 year died during 1951. This represents an infant mortality rate of 18.9 which is considerably below that for England & Wales as a whole 29.6

The infant mortality rate represents the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

The causes of deaths of these infants were as follows:-

Sex	Age	Causes of deaths.
M	3 Minutes	Maternal Toxaemia of pregnancy
F	2 Hours	Prematurity.
F	10 Hours	Prematurity.
F	2 Months	Congenital malformation. (hydrocephalus & spina-bifida)

8. DEATHS FROM ZYNOTIC DISEASES.

	Males	Females	Total
Measles	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Diarrhoea	-	-	-

9. CANCER.

The incidence of deaths from Cancer decreased from 51 in 1950 (17.8 total deaths) to 50 (15.0% total deaths in 1951.

The parts of the body affected are shown in the following table:-

Site	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	4	3	7
Lungs & Bronchus	6	3	9
Breast	-	3	3
Uterus	-	5	5
All other sites	11	15	26
Total	21	29	50

The incidence of deaths from Cancer during the last 10 years as follows:-

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
No:of cases	34	54	39	40	68	40	45	40	51	50
Percentage Total No:of deaths.	11.8	18.3	18.7	13.7	21.0	18.5	17.4	14.1	17.8	15.0
Rate per 1,000 resident pop- ulation.	2.03	3.58	2.50	2.55	4.56	2.43	2.65	2.37	2.98	2.92

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During 1951, 569 cases of notifiable infectious disease were notified which is 403 more than in the previous year. The greatest increase in any particular disease will be seen to be that of measles which rose to 533 cases in 1951, the highest incidence for the last 10 years. On the whole the disease was relatively mild and there were no deaths from that disease.

The seasonal incidence of Measles in Exmouth and England & Wales as a whole was as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Exmouth	-	-	7	36	206	218	56	10	-	-	-	-
	7			460			66			-		
England & Wales	312,164			227,841			48,552			27,520		

Diphtheria - For the 5th consecutive year there has been no case of Diphtheria in Exmouth.

Tabular Statements of Infectious Diseases. -

(a) The incidence during 1951 of the various notifiable infectious diseases is tabulated herewith.

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Measles	533	2	-
Whooping Cough	19		-
Scarlet Fever	12		-
Acute polio-myelitis, encephalitis (Infantile Paralysis)	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Ac. Primary Pneumonia			
Food Poisoning	3	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Total	569	2	

(b) The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases grouped according to age:-

	Under 1 Yr	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65-	Total
Measles	7	36	51	64	69	278	19	2	7	-	-	-	533
Whooping Cough		2	3	4	4	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	19
Scarlet Fever			1			5	2	1	2	1	-	-	12
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-			3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		2
All causes	7	38	55	68	73	288	22	3	10	1	1	3	569

(c) Table showing the incidence (numbers notified) of various infectious diseases during the last 10 years.

Disease	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Measles	6	40	148	233	11	127	135	42	6	533
Whooping Cough	27	39	59	43	53	40	22	40	140	19
Scarlet Fever	17	7	25	6	13	2	5	19	11	12
Diphtheria	2	2	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	5	2	-	2	2	1	1	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	11	3	5	4	2	-	4	7	0
Erysipelas	4	4	4	4	-	1	1	1	1	2
Ac. Polio-encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

1. TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1951, 15 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified (10 males and 5 females)

The age distribution of new cases, localisation of the disease and deaths from Tuberculosis during 1951 are as follows:

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1								
1 -				1				
5 -	1							
15 -		1		3				
25 -	1	3						
35 -		1						
45 -	2				1			
55 -								
65 -	1			1				
All ages	5	5		5	1	-	-	-
	10		5		1		-	
	15				1			

The number of cases still on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year.

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	45	40	85
Non-Pulmonary	11	18	29
	56	58	114

On receipt of a notification of Tuberculosis the housing conditions, milk supply etc., are investigated in collaboration with the County Tuberculosis Officer and where necessary appropriate recommendation made to the Housing Committee.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1942 - 1951 inclusive is given in the following table)

		1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
PULMONARY	M	2	10	7	5	8	11	4	5	7	5
	F	10	8	5	4	4	7	4	5	12	5
NON-PULMONARY	M	1	4	1	-	1	1	3	2	2	-
	F	1	3	3	2	-	4	1	-	3	5
TOTAL		14	25	16	11	13	23	12	12	24	15

12. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

The Health Service provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council) under Part II and III of the Act applicable to your district are briefly set out below.

PART II.

(a) HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

(i) General.

The Urban District is well served by the Exmouth Cottage Hospital, Claremont Grove, Exmouth (Phone Exmouth 4381) where there is accommodation for:-

Male 10 beds
Female 16 beds
Children 5 beds, 4 cots.
Private wards 8

In addition to the above use is made of:-

1. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Southernhay East (Phone 2261) - 300 beds.
2. Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Buckerell Bore, Exeter, (Phone Exeter 54217) - 114 beds.
3. West of England Eye Infirmary, Magdalen Street, Exeter (Phone 3183) - 62 beds.

The Plastic Surgery Centre for Devon is held at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital on the 2nd Thursday in each month.

Mr. Fitz-Gibbons and Mr. Bodenham of the S.W. Regional Board attend.

(ii) Maternity.

1. Poltimore Nursing Home - 15 beds + 2 for isolation.
2. Redhills House, St. Thomas, Exeter.
3. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital for complicated or difficult cases.

(iii) Isolation.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are admitted to the Exeter City Isolation Hospital, Whipton (Phone Exeter 67158) as in previous years.

I should like to record my sincere appreciation for the ready help and co-operation given at all times by the Medical Superintendent and Staff of that Hospital.

(iv) Smallpox.

A smallpox hospital of 28 beds at Upton Pyne administered by the Regional Hospital Board is available in case of need.

Should your Medical Officer of Health require the services of a consultant arrangements have been made to call upon -

Dr. C. Seward, 20, West Southernhay, Exeter or
Dr. W.J. Laird, City Hospital, Exeter.

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological and Serological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter (Tel.No. Exeter 54959), under the direction of Dr. B. Moore, whose ready co-operation and help I wish to acknowledge.

(c) VENEREAL DISEASE.

Under the present scheme free advice and treatment is available to all persons at the following Centre:-

	Males	Females
<u>EXETER.</u>		
Royal Devon &	Mon. 3 - 5 p.m.	Mon. 6 - 7 p.m.
Exeter Hospital	Fri. 6 - 8 p.m.	Fri. 3 - 5 p.m.

(d) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

As from the 5th July, 1948, the Local Health Authority became responsible for the ambulance services in the area, and at their request the Exmouth division of the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade agreed to act as their agents and continue the service commenced in 1936.

During 1951 the total number of calls received were 1,320 of which accident calls numbered 153, and 21,311 miles were travelled in the course of their duties.

Three ambulances are maintained at the Ambulance Station, Bastin Hall, Elm Grove, Exmouth (Tel. Exmouth 2857).

Immunisation against Diphtheria should be given at the age of 8 months and consists of a course of two injections of A.P.T given at one month's interval. The Protection thus provided should be maintained by means of a single reinforcing injection at 5 years of age and a second single reinforcing injection at 10 years of age."

PART III.(e) CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN

A Health Visitor is assigned to this District and has one untrained nursing assistant working under her. Voluntary assistance is rendered at the various clinics by members of the B.R.C.S. and other helpers and such assistance is greatly appreciated.

The two Medical Officers who attend the Infant Welfare Centres are (a) Dr. Dawes of Budleigh Salterton, and (b) Dr. L.G. Anderson your Medical Officer of Health.

The Centres are held at St. Clements, Exeter Road, Exmouth. on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. During 1951 the following attendances were made.

Total No: of attendances of mothers	Total No: of babies	Total No: of Toddlers attending
2443 (of which 118 cases were first attendances	1827 (of which 112 were first attendances	916 (of which 12 were first attendances

Welfare Foods are supplied at the St. Clements Infant Welfare Centre on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

(f) MATERNITY.

There are 4 District Nurse Midwives in this district viz:-

Nurse Snaith
Nurse Warne
Nurse Griffey
Nurse Newell

who reside at No. 2, Albion Hill, Exmouth (Tel Exmouth 2237). Each nurse is in possession of a motor car. All are fully trained in Gas and Oxygen analgesia and one apparatus is available for their use.

(g) CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

When necessary, arrangements can be made for the admission of a premature baby and its mother to the nearest Maternity unit, in this case the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

(h) DENTAL CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN.

A well equipped dental surgery is provided at St. Clements Exeter Road, at which dental treatment can be given to mothers and young children.

(i) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria should be given at the age of 8 months and consists of a course of two injections of A.P.T given at one month's interval. The Protection thus provided should be maintained by means of a single reinforcing injection at 10 years of age.

The immunisation can be given by the patient's own doctor, the Medical Officers attending the Infant Welfare Centres or by the Assistant Schools Medical Officers.

During 1951, 175 children received initial immunisation and 272 were given reinforcing injections.

WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Source of Supply.

The town has two sources from which its water supply is obtained, namely:-

- (i) the catchment area at Squabmoor which feeds into the impounding reservoir there, and
- (ii) two boreholes at Dotton in the parish of Colaton Raleigh.

During the year, electrically driven machinery was installed at Dotton to replace the old plant driven by producer gas and a test was carried out in the autumn which resulted in a yield of two million gallons per day from the two boreholes combined without reducing appreciably the water level below ground. A new chlorinating apparatus with a residual recorder was installed in the Pumping Station. Considerable progress was made in the laying of the new trunk mains from Knowle Hill to the new two million gallon capacity reservoir at Capel Lane and the construction side of the latter was completed and inspected by the Council during a visit on the 20th March 1952.

(b) Quality.

Water has been very satisfactory in quality during the year and of the 12 bacteriological samples taken all were satisfactory. The last analysis is as follows:-

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER (Sampled 10.3..52)

W.818.	High Filters, Exmouth Reservoir. Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil
W.821	Lower Filters, Exmouth Reservoir. Probable number of coli-aerofenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil
W.819	East Budleigh Reservoir. Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 m.l.= nil
W.820	Bystock Reservoir. Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. = nil
W.822	Borehole at Dotton. Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. * nil

(c) Quantity

The demand during the summer season was very high but the very wet season resulted in the accumulation of a considerable storage of water in the Squabmoor Reservoir. Difficulty was experienced, however, in maintaining the supply due to the lack of sufficient storage accommodation in the town, and this will not be overcome until it is possible to draw from the new two-million gallons capacity service reservoir at Capel Lane. It was found impossible to bring this into operation due to the non-delivery of special pipes and fittings required to couple it to the new pipelines.

(d) There are at present 5436 properties connected to the main supply and during 1951, 105 connections were made.

14. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year considerable progress was made in the installation of the new electrically driven machinery at the Sheppards Row Pumping Station and it was possible to use the machinery towards the end of the year.

15. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

These were inspected frequently to see that they were maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. The construction of the new Public Conveniences on the Sea Front was completed and brought into operation for the summer season and the wash-up facilities at them were greatly appreciated by visitors.

16. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse has continued to be disposed of by means of controlled tipping at the King George's Field. It appears that it will be impossible to secure any approval for the erection of a new Refuse Destructor during the present period of restriction on expenditure and the use of steel. Investigations are, therefore, being made into the possibility of providing some alternative means of protecting the face of the tip on the King George's Field from the water in the estuary.

17. SWIMMING POOL.

The system of breakpoint chlorination continued to give very satisfactory results but complaints of eye irritation were received on the occasion of the last two galas held by the Swimming Club. A detailed investigation into the reasons for these complaints proved fruitless, but it is hoped that the constant research which is being undertaken on this subject will result in their elimination in the future.

18. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following paragraphs 18 - 24 have been kindly furnished by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Premises visited, total number under sub-headings below.....	58	133
1. New Drains.....	-	-
2. Drains repaired.....	3	8
3. W.C's reconstructed or repaired.....	2	4
4. House roofs repaired	5	12
5. House yard paving repaired.....	-	-
6. House walls and floors repaired.....	5	10
7. Other house repairs.....	3	4
8. Ashbins provided.....	1	4
9. Nuisances abated.....	39	91
Miscellaneous (complaints, caravans, mosquitoes, catering licences, etc).....		382
Number of informal notices served (general).		51

(In addition to the above, visits were made to various premises as shown under the following different headings).

19.	<u>DISINFECTION.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
	Disinfection of Bedding (lots)	9	
	Disinfection of Premises	10	and 19 visits made.

20. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Houses (Council) found to be infested.....	0
Number of Houses (other than Council) do.	1
Number of Houses do. disinfectd	1

For the disinfection use was made of "Gammexane D 034" and Gammexane" Smoke Generators.

21. CAMPING SITES.

The three camping sites in the area licensed by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were very well patronised and the maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time during the height of the season was 3360 in 960 dwellings.

The actual number of visits and inspections in respect of the licensed Camping Sites was 78.

22. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The number of visits made to the 22 dairies in the district was 63. Methods of sterilization of all utensils, bottles, etc. were particularly examined at the dairy.

Distribution was also watched very carefully and if any fault could be found advice was given for more care to be exercised in the hygienic control of the milk once it had left the dairy.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

(i) Unsound Food. The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year was 1 ton 8 cwts. 3 qrs. 7 lbs. as follows:-

TINNED FOODS.

No. of Tins	Pounds	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
936	1589	14	0	21.
<u>OTHER FOODS.</u>				
Cooked Ham	557			
Cooked Fowls	17			
Jellied Veal.	18			
Fish	84			
Sausages.	12			
Bags of Carrots.	840			
Bag of Garden Peas	40			
Bag of Oatmeal	70			
	1638	14	2	14.
Total of all Foods Condemned		1 Ton 8cwts 3qrs 7lbs.		

Visits were paid to meat shops, cooked meat shops, fish shops, fried fish shops, greengrocers, fruit shops, and provision stores during the year, and it was pleasing to find the improvements that had been and are being made to further the Clean Food Campaign. The number of visits to these premises were 693.

(ii) Catering Establishments.

These were frequently visited and it was quite apparent that the managements and staffs of these establishments had taken due notice of the lectures given by the Medical Officer of Health in the early part of the year, regarding the requirements that were needed in their particular trade to avoid any Food Poisoning Outbreak.

Since the lectures were given I have found the traders more willing than ever to co-operate and any reasonable request is attended to without delay.

The number of visits made to these places were 107.

(iii) Hotels & Guest Houses.

Most of these premises have been visited and the kitchens inspected, suggestions and advice were given where necessary to meet the requirements given in the report of the Catering Trades Working Party.

The number of visits made were 37.

(c) Ice Cream.

During the year 57 samples of ice cream were taken from the manufacturers in the district for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory and the results were as follows:-

Grade I	-	47
Grade II	-	8
Grade III	-	1
Grade IV	-	1

The results of the tests may be considered to be satisfactory as a whole.

The two samples that fell into Grade III and IV gave the department and producers something to think about, as these producers mostly have results in Grade I. Everything at the premises was thoroughly examined but nothing could be found which might have caused the trouble.

It occasionally happens that to locate the trouble when a sample fails to reach the standard of Grade I you require to check the whole of the plant, taking samples of the product at different stages of production until the cause is ultimately found. This was not found to be necessary, however, as the next sample that was taken in each of these cases passed Grade I.

I am indebted to Dr. Moore, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter, for his valuable assistance and advice in such cases.

The producers were most anxious to produce ice cream which came up to the standard, and in order that they should know the result of each sample taken from their premises, a copy of the report received from the Laboratory was sent to them. Visits were paid to premises where ice cream was retailed and they were all found to be satisfactory. There were 156 visits and inspections paid to premises where ice cream was prepared or sold.

26. FAC TORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect-ions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	26	40	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	58	73	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total	84	113	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H .M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2			
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors.					
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	3		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to Outwork					
Total	3	5		1	

27. HOUSING - REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF HOUSING COMMITTEE.

(Report for year ending December, 1951.)

" The past year has been satisfactory, inasmuch as the speed of the Housing Programme has been increased and has seen the completion of the Marpool Estate and the opening of the Littleham Estate. Furthermore, the site works of the Salterton Road area are now well in hand.

Generally speaking the larger families who have been sometime on the list have now been housed and there are few long standing names where there are several children in the family, left to be housed.

An innovation in the last twelve months has been the sitting at intervals of the Chairman and one member of the Committee, in order to hear such people on the Housing List who feel that they have good grounds for special treatment. This has proved most useful, not only to the applicants but there are those on the list who while refusing to accept the Housing Officer's assurance of the position, do accept it from the members of the Committee personally. There have been two cases of misunderstandings that have been put right.

The Committee still adhere to the opinion that the Council's present system has many advantages over a Points System, and that while it is necessary from time to time to "jump the queue" the scheme is successful.

The following figures are self-explanatory:-

No. of people housed during the year.....	114	(Houses & Flats)
No. of new dwellings erected by the Council.....	93	
No. of Houses still under requisition.....	59	
No. of Families accommodated in requisitioned properties.....	121	
No. of persons interviewed.....	2185	
No. of visits and investigations.....	287	
No. of applications received during 1951.....	320	
Total No. requiring accommodation December 1951....	749	
749 made up as follows:		
Applications December 1951.....	624	
Families in requisitioned houses.....	121	
6,7,8, - Coast Guard Cottages (Four Families).....	4	
	<u>749</u>	

Once again no Housing Report would be complete without a very sincere tribute to the able and human way in which Mrs. Ellett, the Housing and Investigating Officer, carries out her work.

Every applicant on the Housing List will receive a new form at the end of each year, and in order to obviate complaints that some people have been missed - a fact, which never comes to light until a long period has elapsed - such renewals are now being sent by Registered Post. By such a method the List is continually up-to-date."

(Sgd.) E.R. DELDERFIELD.

Chairman of the Housing Committee.

